

MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

4:05 p.m.

Room 307 House Office Building, Lansing

Representative Nitz, Chair, called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Nitz, Ball, Newell, Casperson, Stahl, Proos, Hune, Mayes, Spade, Kathleen Law, Sheltrown. (11/11)

The Chair laid SB 223, SB 225, SB 226 and SB 228 before the Committee.

SB 223	Jelinek	Single business tax; credit; agricultural processing apprenticeship program; create.
SB 225	Brown	Agriculture; other; agriculture tourism advisory commission; create within department of agriculture.
SB 226	Gilbert	Agriculture; other; agriculture and rural community advisory council; create within department.
SB 228	Van Woerkom	Higher education; financial aid; higher education loan repayment program for certain agricultural workers; create in department of agriculture.

Jeff Cobb, representing Senator Van Woerkom, spoke to the Committee in support of SB 223, SB 226 and SB 228.

Jeanne Laimon, representing Senator Brown, spoke in support of SB 225.

Tom Frazier, representing the Michigan Townships Association, spoke to the Committee regarding SB 225 and SB 226. Mr. Frazier discussed some concerns but did not take a position on the bills at this time.

Dr. Al Stinson, representing the Michigan Association of Purebred Dogs and the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation, spoke in support of SB 225 and SB 226.

Cindy Coke, representing the United Kennel Club, spoke in support of SB 225 and SB 226.

William Sawyer, representing the Michigan Department of Treasury, submitted a card in opposition to SB 223 and SB 228.

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Frank Ruswick, representing the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), submitted a card in support of SB 226.

Rob Anderson and Tonia Ritter, representing the Michigan Farm Bureau, spoke in support of SB 223, SB 225, SB 226 and SB 228.

Representative Hune made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of April 26, 2005, supported by Representative Sheltroun. No objections being offered, a unanimous ballot was cast to accept the minutes as presented.

There being no additional business before the Committee, Chair Nitz declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 5:03 p.m.

Representative Neal Nitz, Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk
(517) 373-8538